

# Degree Programs in Italian Studies

## Summary of Requirements: Major in Italian Studies

- ITAL 20400
- Nine upper-level courses in or related to Italian
  - Any of the nine may be courses in advanced Italian language beyond ITAL 20400
  - Up to four of the nine may be courses on Italian cultural topics taken outside of the department with approval from the Italian undergraduate adviser
  - BA paper (if the student wishes to qualify for honors)\*

**Total Units: 1000**

\*Students writing a BA honors paper may include ITAL 29900 BA Paper Preparation: Italian. To qualify for honors in the major, students must have an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher and an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the major.

## Summary of Requirements: Minor in Italian Studies

- ITAL 20400
- Five upper-level Italian courses
  - Any of these may be courses in advanced Italian language beyond ITAL 20400
  - Up to three of these courses may be on Italian cultural topics taken outside of the department, with approval from the Italian undergraduate adviser

**Total Units: 600**

## Contact Us :



**Maria Anna Mariani**  
Undergraduate Adviser  
[marianim@uchicago.edu](mailto:marianim@uchicago.edu)



**Veronica Vegna**  
Director of Italian Language Program  
[vvegna@uchicago.edu](mailto:vvegna@uchicago.edu)



**Sara Dallavalle**  
Placement Coordinator  
[saradall@uchicago.edu](mailto:saradall@uchicago.edu)



**Callie Manick**  
Undergraduate Administrator  
[callie.manick@uchicago.edu](mailto:callie.manick@uchicago.edu)

**Join the Italian listhost to stay  
up-to-date on news, events,  
and job opportunities!**  
[rll-itundergrad@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto:rll-itundergrad@lists.uchicago.edu)



@uchicago\_italian



[rll.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/  
italian-studies](http://rll.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/italian-studies)



Department of Romance  
Languages and Literatures

**Wieboldt Hall 205**  
**1050 E 59th St**  
**Chicago, IL 60637**

# Italian Studies

2025-2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**

**DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE  
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**  
Division of the Arts & Humanities





# Our Faculty

Prof. Vegna's scholarly interests focus on language pedagogy and second language acquisition, as well as Italian cinema, particularly cinematic portrayals of women in relation to the mafia. Her book *Donne, mafia e cinema: una prospettiva interdisciplinare* (2017) offers a critical analysis of gender roles in depictions of the Sicilian mafia in contemporary Italian film. Her interest in this topic arises from both her academic research and her experience as a journalist in Palermo, the Italian city where she was born and raised. Her most recent articles, along with her course "Women in Italian Organized Crime Through Cinema" (ITAL 22440), extend this inquiry to include various Italian mafias and the roles women play within these organizations. Conversation and collaborative learning are central to all her courses. She strives to create a friendly and welcoming environment in which students reflect collectively on diverse cultural and social contexts through the course content, while also actively shaping the class itself. In addition to ITAL 22440, this winter she will teach "Migration, Identity, and Belonging in Italian and Spanish Cinema" (ITAL 23880) together with Prof. Mario Santana.



Take Italian! You will develop the knowledge and critical skills necessary to understand and engage with a variety of aspects of Italian culture and society. Our classes are small, so you will receive privileged attention from instructors, enhancing the quality of your learning. After two years of Italian, you can go study at the oldest university in Western World, Bologna!

*Maria Anna Mariani*  
Associate Professor,  
Modern Italian Literature  
Undergraduate Adviser



## Student Spotlight

Thanks to a FLAG grant, I was able to study Italian in Florence *and* take the Civilization Core in Rome. Beyond strengthening my language skills, the extended stay allowed me to travel on weekends to nearly twenty museum collections featuring export East Asian art across Europe. These encounters shaped my early interests in exotica, global art history, and thing theory, ultimately leading me to further pursue a PhD in art history at UChicago.

I recall stepping into the darkness of the Sibyl's cave in Naples, stumbling upon a seaside castle in Trieste filled with Chinese porcelains, and pausing before a faded, anonymous rose beneath the tombs of saints in Rome. Beyond its practical value, Italian is woven into some of the most formative memories of my undergraduate years.

Italian continues to be an essential tool in my research on export art and Qing court art, enabling me to access archival materials such as missionary letters and travel diaries, while also laying a strong foundation for acquiring other Romance languages like French.



*Ruofan Zhao*  
Art History & East Asian  
Languages and Civilizations  
Double Major; Italian Minor  
Class of 2024



## Study Abroad in Italy

- Milan: Bocconi University Exchange
- Rome: Antiquity to the Baroque
- Bologna: University of Bologna
- Florence: Living with History

Find more information at [study-abroad.uchicago.edu](https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu)

## Italian after College

The College Center for Research and Fellowships supports students in their applications for fellowships and further study

Find more information at [ccrf.uchicago.edu](https://ccrf.uchicago.edu)

*Photo Above: Taken by Charles White while participating in the "Rome, Antiquity to the Baroque" Study Abroad Program*  
*Photo to the Left: Veronica Vegna, Senior Instructional Professor & Director of the Italian Language Program, posing with a Letizia Battaglia photograph in Palermo, Italy*